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Twentieth Report

**COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS**

(This report covers the week from
29 June through 5 July 1973)

*This memorandum has been prepared jointly by the
Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense*

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COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS*

(This report covers the week from
29 June through 5 July 1973)

The Key Points

- One infiltration group of North Vietnamese combat troops, totalling an estimated 500 men, was observed beginning the infiltration trip to northern South Vietnam during the week. In addition, we have evidence that some North Vietnamese units are continuing to move from southern Laos across the border into western South Vietnam.
- The pattern of North Vietnamese logistic activity remains unchanged from that of recent weeks--low in southern Laos, moderate in the North Vietnamese Panhandle, and heavy in northern South Vietnam.
- Combat activity was at a low level in both South Vietnam and Laos.

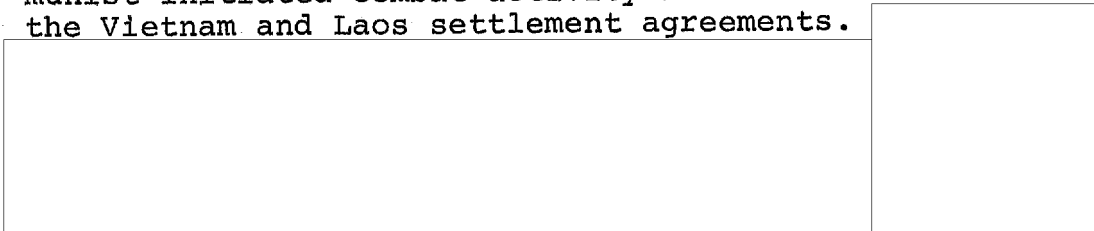
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The Details

NOTE: This is the twentieth in a series of reports detailing recently received evidence of (a) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military materiel toward and into South Vietnam, and (b) Communist-initiated combat activity in violation of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements.


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A. Infiltration and Redeployments of North Vietnamese Personnel

1. One new regular combat infiltration group was detected entering the pipeline in North Vietnam during the past week. This group, with an estimated strength of 500 men, is destined for the northern part of GVN MR 1. This is the first group of combat troops observed traveling to this area since late May 1973. Eight small groups of civil and military specialists, totalling about 150 personnel, were also observed during the past week moving southward in North Vietnam, the Laotian Panhandle and Cambodia. Seven of these groups are headed for South Vietnam, while the eighth is traveling to southern Laos.

2. Since the 15 June effective date of the Paris Communique (the "second ceasefire"), about 1,400 North Vietnamese personnel have begun the infiltration trip southward. Of these, some 1,000 are combat personnel and 400 are civil and military specialists. The cumulative total of infiltration southward from North Vietnam since 27 January now stands at some 52,000 North Vietnamese personnel. Of these, about 25,000 were in the infiltration pipeline and already traveling south as of 27 January, and the other 27,000 have started their journey south since that date. (ANNEX II, )

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contains a more detailed discussion of the information pertaining to infiltration which was received during the past week.)

3. Evidence received during the past week indicates that another NVA antiaircraft regiment, or at least a major element thereof, has moved eastward from southern Laos across the Vietnamese border into the area south of Khe Sanh in GVN MR 1. This appears to be one more in a series of moves by the North Vietnamese to strengthen their positions along their new supply corridor in western South Vietnam. The move also further adds to North Vietnamese air defense capabilities in South Vietnam. Since the 27 January signing of the Vietnam settlement agreement, the North Vietnamese are believed to have moved six AAA regiments into South Vietnam. Counting units which were already there as of 27 January, Hanoi now has a total of nineteen AAA regiments and one SAM regiment in South Vietnam.

4. In another major development, sightings by U.S. pilots indicate that Communist units in Cambodia are now for the first time employing SA-7 missiles against Allied aircraft in the Phnom Penh area. In the past two weeks there have been three pilot reports of SA-7 launchings, all from an area some ten kilometers south of the capital. We have no firm evidence as to whether North Vietnamese personnel fired these missiles, or whether Khmer Insurgents did.

B. Movement of Military Equipment and Supplies Through and Into South Vietnam and Laos

5. There has been little change in the pace of NVA logistic activity during the past several weeks. We are at present detecting hardly any Communist supply movements in southern Laos, although there is continuing evidence of Communist construction activity, both on the roads and on facilities which are believed to be military support installations. Despite the end of the "transportation campaign" in northern South Vietnam which extended from

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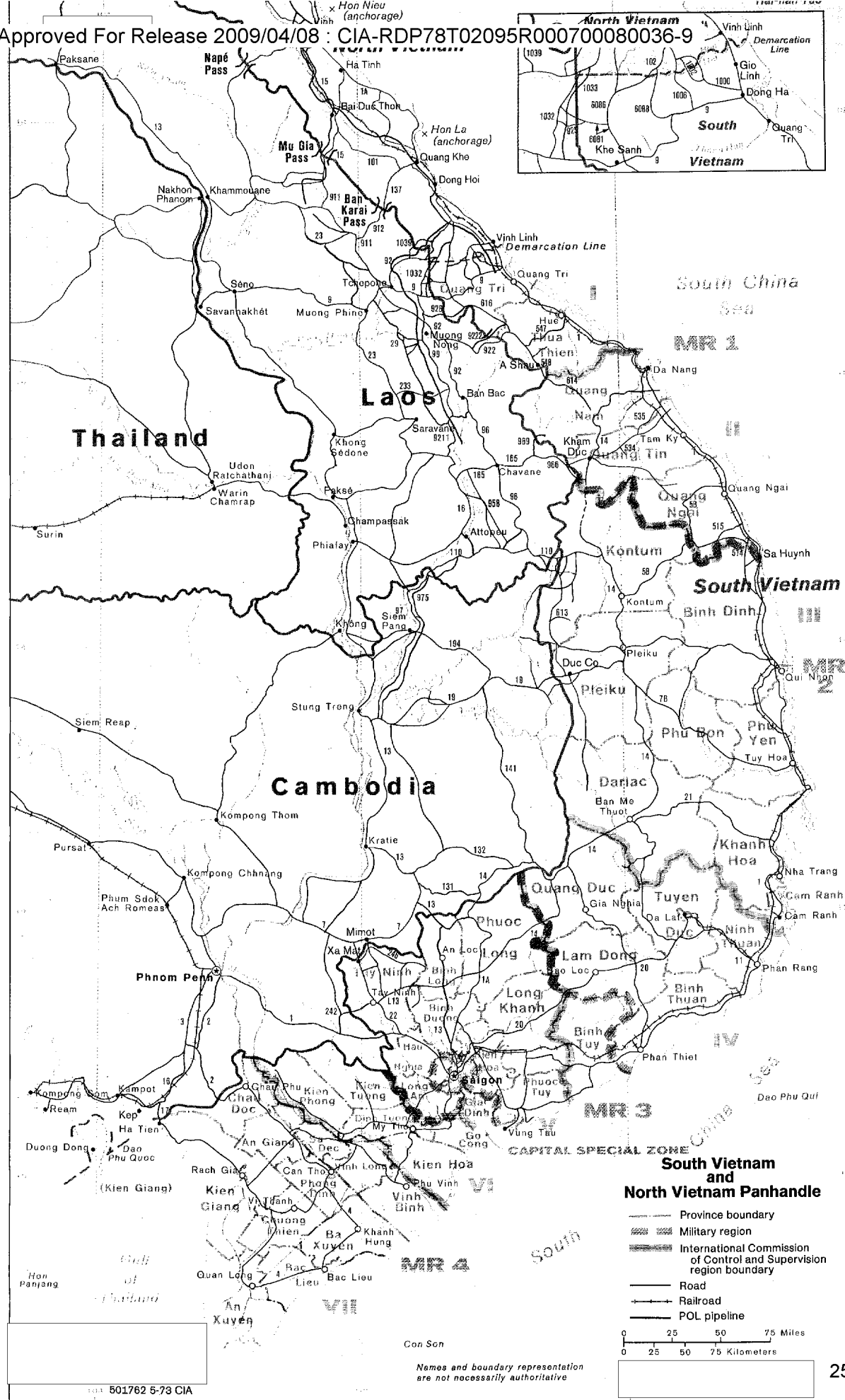
[redacted]

11 through 25 June, heavy NVA supply traffic continues in this area. In North Vietnam, the number of vehicles detected moving south of Quang Khe was down somewhat from the previous week, but substantial quantities of supplies are still moving throughout the North Vietnamese Panhandle.

6. The following details of Communist logistic activity were observed in South Vietnam during the period. Activity observed in South Vietnam probably reflects supplies which have recently entered the country. (The map of the following page shows the roads and route numbers which appear below.)

- a.) [redacted] about 250 vehicles were active in the area of the division-level logistic entity operating in northern South Vietnam and the adjacent Laos border areas. 25X1
- b.) [redacted] three major NVA storage facilities located in and south of the A Shau Valley had nearly 16,000 tons of cargo on hand. Most of this cargo was food products and most of it had been received during the NVA "transportation offensive" that ended on 25 June. 25X1
- c.) [redacted] an NVA logistic unit operating along Route 548 received 160 cargo vehicles, 40 of which were reported to be transporting unidentified cargo. 25X1
- d.) [redacted] 183 cargo vehicles were observed on Route 548 north of A Shau (108 northbound, 34 southbound, 41 parked.) 25X1
- e.) [redacted] an NVA unit operating in the Cua Viet River area was observed receiving 209 vehicles and dispatching 259 vehicles. 25X1

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- f.) [] there were 86 cargo vehicles detected on Route 9 between the Laos/South Vietnam border and the route's junction with Route 6088 (13 eastbound, 24 westbound, 49 parked.)
- g.) [] 27 cargo trucks were observed on Route 616 southeast of Khe Sanh (4 northbound, 4 southbound, 19 parked.)

7. During the reporting period the following indications of North Vietnamese logistic activity in southern Laos were noted.

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- a.) Recently received evidence indicates that [] there were three probable military installations under construction on Route 912 south of the Ban Karai Pass. Seventeen new buildings have been constructed at these installations since mid-April, as well as a number of earthen bunkers surrounding the sites.
- b.) On the night [] only 16 trucks were observed on the major roads from Muong Nong to the tri-border area.

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8. There is additional evidence of the continuing movement within North Vietnam of military and other supplies probably destined for South Vietnam and northern and southern Laos.

- a.) [] 16 cargo vehicles were detected crossing the Troc River southwest of Quang Khe. The destination of the vehicles was not disclosed.
- b.) [] a logistic unit operating in the southern North Vietnam Pan-handle received over 380 tons of unidentified cargo and about 100 tons

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of dried foodstuffs from another NVA unit located northwest of Vinh.

- c.) [] a storage facility in the Vinh area received three trucks transporting 10 tons of 122-mm rocket ammunition. 25X1
- d.) [] 20 southbound and 18 northbound NVA vehicles were detected crossing the Troc River at a ferry southwest of Quang Khe. 25X1
- e.) [] over 40 tons of quartermaster supplies and foodstuffs were transported by barge to an NVA logistic unit south of Quang Khe. 25X1
- f.) In addition to the supply movements in southern North Vietnam cited above, we have good evidence that about 1,600 tons of arms and ammunition are to be moved southward in the North Vietnamese Panhandle to the Quang Khe area in the near future.

C. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces in South Vietnam Since the Ceasefire

9. In South Vietnam, the total number of Communist-initiated ceasefire violations reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces since 27 January and for the last week (29 June-5 July) are shown below:

Military Region	Total Since Ceasefire Level of Action		Last Week (29 Jun-5 Jul) Level of Action	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
MR 1	1,068	3,551	12	45
MR 2	299	2,133	15	100
MR 3	423	2,824	4	62
MR 4	746	6,867	13	202
Totals	2,536	15,375	44 (47) <u>1/</u>	409 (410) <u>1/</u>

1/ Denotes totals of previous week.

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10. Some of these violations may have been initiated by GVN forces rather than Communist forces, and it is impossible in all cases to determine the actual instigator. The table above and the chart on the following page, however, do show fairly accurately the trend in the amount of combat that has occurred in South Vietnam since the ceasefire. The fact that a combat incident occurred at a particular time and place is generally reported accurately by the South Vietnamese, even though the question of who started it may not always be treated in objective fashion. In some cases, the Joint Military Commission (GVN/PRG) also reports violations of the ceasefire.

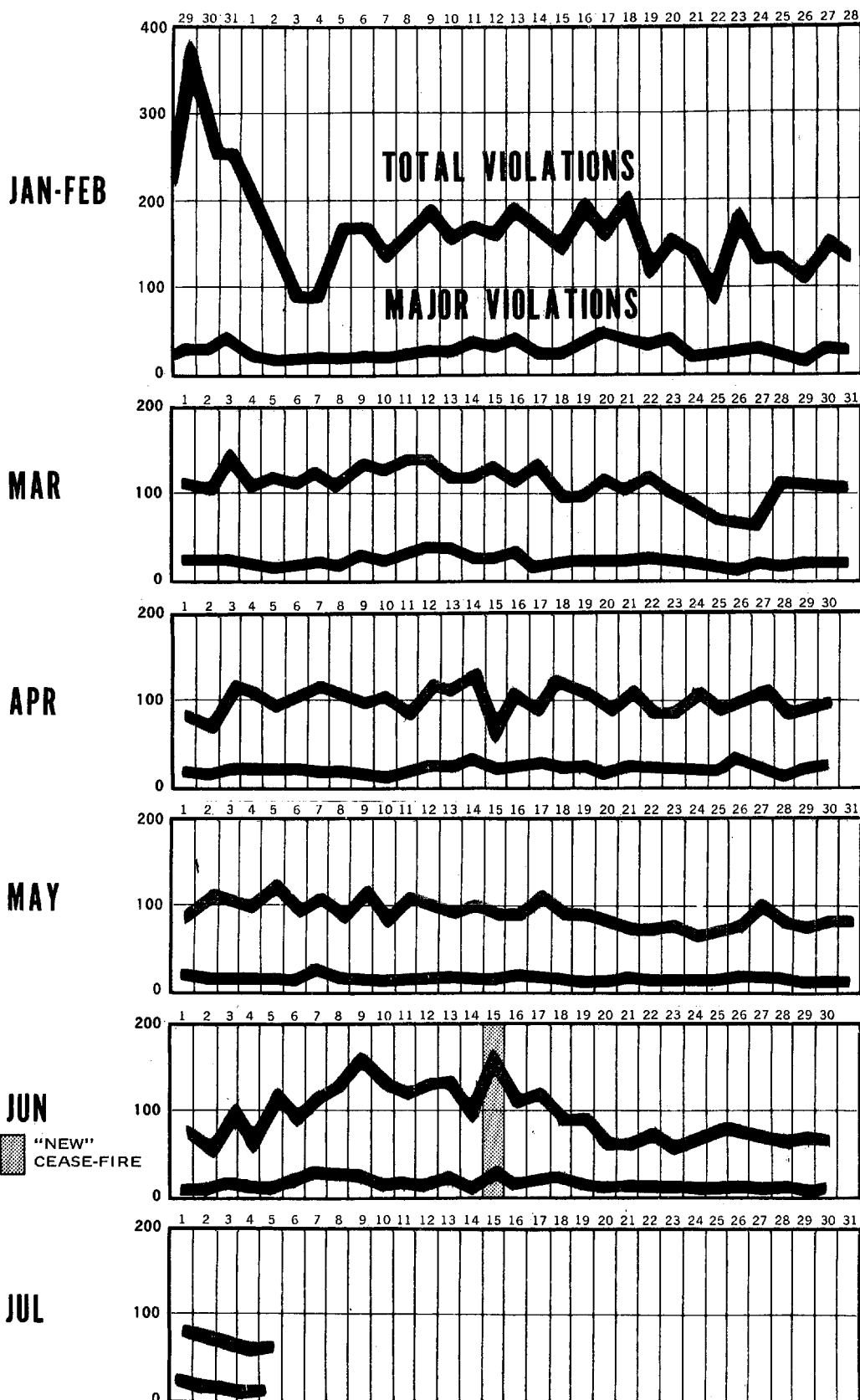
D. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces
in Laos During the Week from 29 June through
5 July 1973

11. There was no significant combat activity in Laos during the week.



CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

(28 JANUARY 1973 TO THE PRESENT)



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ANNEX II

Post-Ceasefire Infiltration of North
Vietnamese Personnel to the South

1. One regular combat infiltration group--7082--was detected entering the infiltration system at Vinh in North Vietnam on 2 July. This group, which is destined for Communist MR Tri-Thien-Hue in the northern part of South Vietnam, follows the 30 May detection of Group 7081 in the same area. Both of these groups, however, are far out of numerical sequence with previously observed groups in the 7xxx series and, as a result, the significance of their appearance at this time is unclear. Prior to the detection of Group 7081, the last group observed in the 7xxx series was Group 7011, which was noted passing through Vinh on 11 March. The large number of undetected groups between Groups 7011 and 7081, however, precludes any "gap-filling," since it is highly unlikely that 69 groups traveled southward through the infiltration system unobserved during the period. The appearance of these out-of-sequence groups may mean that the North Vietnamese intend to move a number of other combat groups into northern MR 1 during the next several months, but it is premature to draw such a conclusion at this point.

2. During the reporting period, eight small special-purpose infiltration groups also were detected moving south in the infiltration pipeline. Although we have specific evidence on the strength of only four of these groups, it is estimated that the aggregate strength of all eight groups is about 150 personnel. As shown in the table on the following page, three groups were observed entering the infiltration system in North Vietnam, while the other five groups were detected farther south in the Laotian Panhandle and Cambodia. One group--Z 865--is destined for south Laos, while the other seven are traveling to various areas of South Vietnam.

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Infiltration Groups Initially
Reported During the Past Week

<u>Group Designator</u>	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date of Detection</u>
7082	500*	North Vietnam	2 July
A 267	Unknown	Cambodia	1 July
K 166	3	Cambodia	30 June
QL 120	3	North Vietnam	29 June
QL 285	8	Cambodia	1 July
QL 403	3	North Vietnam	28 June
Y 446	Unknown	North Vietnam	29 June
Z 334	Unknown	South Laos	29 June
Z 865	Unknown	South Laos	28 June

* Estimated strength.

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